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shoulder portion 940B is defined between the bevel 940A and the radially outer surface 940 of the rim flange 934. The radially outer surface 940 is not fully chamfered in order to protect the trim ring 950 from damage when a wheel balance weight (not shown) is removed from the rim flange 934 of the wheel 920.

In accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.121, a marked up version of the replacement paragraphs to show all the changes is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

In the Claims

Kindly replace Claims 1, 5, 7, 9-15, 18-21, 24, 25 and 27-28 with the following amended claims:

- Sub B
1. (Amended) A composite wheel assembly comprising:
- a wheel having an outboard surface thereon, said wheel further having a disc and a rim circumscribing said disc, said rim terminating in a rim flange having a radially outer surface, said rim flange further having a lip at an axially outermost portion thereof;
- a trim ring secured to said outboard surface of said wheel, said trim ring covering said lip and at least a portion of said radially outer surface of said rim flange of said wheel;
- a cladding secured to said outboard surface of said wheel; and
- means for attaching said trim ring and said cladding to said outboard surface of said wheel, said attaching means configured to overlap said trim ring and said
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cladding in a radial direction regardless of tolerance variations of said trim ring and said cladding whereby said radial overlapping relationship gives a visible impression that said trim ring and said cladding form a single wheel cover element.

5. (Amended) A composite wheel assembly comprising:

a wheel having an outboard surface thereon, said wheel further having a disc portion and a rim portion circumscribing said disc portion, said rim portion terminating in a rim flange having a flange lip at an axially outermost portion thereof; a radially inner surface; and a radially outer surface substantially opposite said radially inner surface, said flange lip connecting said radially inner and outer surfaces;

a trim ring mounted to said outboard surface of said wheel, said trim ring having a flange portion covering at least a portion of said outboard surface of said wheel, and a U-shaped portion extending from said flange portion, said U-shaped portion having a radially outer wall covering at least a portion of said radially outer surface of said rim flange of said wheel; a radially inner wall covering said radially inner surface of said rim flange of said wheel; and a lip portion extending from said radially outer wall to said radially inner wall of said trim ring whereby said trim ring covers at least a portion of said outboard surface and said rim flange to create a visible impression that said trim ring is an integral portion of said outboard surface of said wheel and not a separately attached component;

means for securing said trim ring to said wheel;

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a cladding secured to at least a portion of said outboard surface of said wheel; and

means for securing said cladding to said wheel;

whereby said trim ring and said cladding are configured to overlap in a radial direction regardless of tolerance variation of said trim ring and said cladding such that said overlapping relationship gives a visible impression that said trim ring and said cladding form a single wheel cover element.

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7. (Amended) The composite wheel assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein said means for securing said cladding to said wheel comprises:

an annular detent provided in said disc portion of said wheel; and

a plurality of protuberances extending in a direction axially inward from said cladding, each of said plurality of protuberances resiliently engaging said annular detent of said disc portion of said wheel so as to secure said cladding to said outboard surface of said wheel, said plurality of protuberances concentrically locating said cladding with respect to said rim flange of said wheel and spaced from said outboard surface of said wheel so as to define at least one gap therebetween.

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9. (Amended) The composite wheel assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein said means for securing said trim ring to said wheel further comprises an interlocking portion on said rim flange of said wheel and a complementary interlocking portion on said trim ring.

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10. (Amended) The composite wheel assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein said interlocking portion of said trim ring comprises an annular hem formed in said radially outer wall of said U-shaped portion of said trim ring and said interlocking portion of said rim flange of said wheel comprises an annular groove in said radially outer surface of said rim flange, whereby said annular hem engages said annular groove for securing said trim ring to said wheel.

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11. (Amended) The composite wheel assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein said interlocking portion of said trim ring comprises an annular bead in said radially outer wall of said U-shaped portion of said trim ring and said interlocking portion of said rim flange of said wheel comprises an annular groove in said radially outer surface of said rim flange, whereby said annular bead engages said annular groove for securing said trim ring to said wheel.

12. (Amended) The composite wheel assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein said interlocking portion of said trim ring comprises a hem portion in said radially outer wall of said U-shaped portion of said trim ring, and said interlocking portion of said rim flange of said wheel comprises a tapered portion of said radially outer surface, said tapered portion being configured to slope in a radially inwardly and axially inboard direction whereby said hem portion of said trim ring grippingly engages said tapered portion of said rim flange of said wheel.

13. (Amended) The composite wheel assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein said radially outer surface of said rim flange is beveled to slope in a radially inwardly and axially outboard direction.

14. (Amended) The composite wheel assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein said radially outer surface of said rim flange has a shoulder portion and is beveled to slope in a radially inwardly and axially outboard direction from said shoulder portion.

15. (Amended) The composite wheel assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein said radially outer wall of said U-shaped portion of said trim ring has a wheel weight bead for retaining a wheel weight thereto.

18. (Amended) The composite wheel assembly as claimed in claim 17, wherein said at least a portion of said trim ring has a radial projection that overlaps said at least a portion of said cladding.

19. (Amended) The composite wheel assembly as claimed in claim 18, wherein said radially inner wall of said U-shaped portion of said trim ring terminates in an axially extending tab portion.

20. (Amended) The composite wheel assembly as claimed in claim 17, wherein said cladding has an annular groove and said trim ring has a complementary annular projection adapted to interlock with said annular groove.

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21. (Amended) The composite wheel assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein one of said trim ring and said cladding is surface treated and the other of said trim ring and said cladding is painted so as to provide a two-tone appearance to said wheel.

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24. A wheel covering combination for covering a wheel to produce a composite wheel assembly, said wheel covering comprising:

a wheel having an outboard surface thereon, said wheel further having a disc and a rim circumscribing said disc, said rim having a rim flange defined at a radially outermost portion thereof, said rim flange having a flange lip at an axially outermost portion thereof, said rim flange further having a radially inner surface and a radially outer surface substantially opposite said radially inner surface, said flange lip connecting said radially inner and outer surfaces;

a trim ring mounted to at least a portion of said rim flange of said wheel, said trim ring having a flange portion covering at least a portion of said outboard surface of said wheel, said trim ring further having a U-shaped portion extending from said flange portion, said U-shaped portion covering said lip portion of said rim flange and at least a portion of said radially outer surface of said rim flange of said wheel thereby conforming to at least a portion of said outboard surface of said wheel to provide a visible impression that said trim ring is actually part of said wheel;

a cladding secured to said outboard surface of said wheel; and

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means for attaching said trim ring and said cladding to said wheel, said
attaching means configured to overlap ^{WHAT?} said trim ring and said cladding in a radial
direction regardless of tolerance variation of said trim ring and said cladding whereby
said overlapping relationship gives a visible impression that said trim ring and said
cladding form a single wheel cover element covering said outboard surface of said wheel.

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25. (Amended) A method for producing a composite wheel assembly
comprising the steps of:

providing a wheel having an outboard surface thereon, said wheel further
having a disc and a rim circumscribing said disc, said rim having a rim flange defined at a
radially outermost portion thereof, said rim flange having a radially inner surface; a
radially outer surface substantially opposite said radially inner surface; and a flange lip
connecting said radially inner and outer surfaces;

providing a trim ring having a flange portion and a U-shaped portion
extending from said flange portion, said trim ring further having a central opening of a
predetermined inner diameter;

providing a cladding having a predetermined outer diameter wherein said
predetermined outer diameter is greater than said predetermined inner diameter of said
trim ring;

assembling said trim ring to said wheel such that said flange portion of
said trim ring covers at least a portion of said outboard surface of said wheel and said U-

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shaped portion of said trim ring radially and axially covers at least a portion of said radially outer surface of said rim flange of said wheel; and

assembling said cladding to said outboard surface of said wheel such that said trim ring and said cladding overlap in a radial direction regardless of tolerance variation of said trim ring and said cladding whereby said overlapping relationship of said trim ring and said cladding gives a visible impression that said trim ring and said cladding form a single wheel cover element.

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27. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said step of assembling said cladding to said outboard surface of said wheel comprises assembling at least a portion of said cladding axially outboard with respect to at least a portion of said trim ring.

28. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said step of assembling said cladding to said outboard surface of said wheel comprises assembling at least a portion of said cladding axially inboard with respect to at least a portion of said trim ring.

In the Drawings

Pending approval of the Examiner, Applicants' attorney would like to amend the drawings in the above-identified application as follows:

Figure 2, kindly amend the leader line of reference character 42 to extend to the radially inner surface of the rim flange as depicted in Figure 3; and